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LETTER DATED 11 JANUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a note from the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference concerning the report submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 943 (1994). I should be grateful if you would have it circulated to all the members of the Council and issued as a Council document.

(Signed) Ahmed SNOUSSI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: English]

Note from the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina is gravely concerned over two related issues, namely, the continuing cross-border aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina by so-called Croatian Serb forces and over the potential extension of the sanctions-easing on Serbia and Montenegro.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference is appalled that so-called Croatian Serb forces have for two months now invaded and occupied towns and villages in the Bihac region of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the bordering United Nations Protected Areas in the Republic of Croatia, violating the Republic's territorial integrity and sovereignty, constituting international aggression and threatening international peace and security. This invasion and occupation jeopardizes the recently achieved cease-fire in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and undermines the negotiating process established by the five-nation Contact Group. The situation for the civilians and peace-keepers in the Bihac region is further aggravated by the restrictions on freedom of movement imposed by the so-called Croatian Serbs and other forms of harassment against the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other related humanitarian organizations.

The Charter of the United Nations, the recently achieved cease-fire as well as the potential for a negotiated settlement necessitate that the so-called Croatian Serb forces withdraw from the areas they have occupied (within the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina). The Security Council has the primary responsibility in seeing that this withdrawal takes place.

OIC believes that it may be imprudent under the current circumstances to extend the sanctions-easing on Serbia and Montenegro. Unfortunately, now that the Security Council in its initial resolution 943 (1994) has already set into motion this course of action, we are left with the option of trying to maximize its benefit or continue to oppose it. While OIC acknowledges that the Belgrade regime can play a constructive role in compelling the Pale Serbs to accept the five-nation Contact Group's peace plan, the monitoring mission of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia must help to effectuate this potentially constructive role. OIC notes serious inadequacies in the monitoring methodology which have exposed an increasing political tendency in the relevant reports of the Co-Chairmen to extend sanctions-easing on Serbia and Montenegro.

Many independent international factors acknowledge that the border continues to be violated by the transport of strategic materials and personnel. It is paramount that the monitoring mechanisms and the number of monitors be upgraded and that more serious consideration be given to third-party sources.

It is regrettable that the reports of the Co-Chairman have too casually dismissed such sources. Furthermore, it is especially regrettable that the Co-Chairmen have approved of fuel shipments that violate the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Croatia as well as Security Council resolution 820 (1993). We look forward to the new draft resolution terminating the latter shipments and strengthening the modalities and methodology for deterring, ascertaining and reporting violations.